

GRIMSHAW

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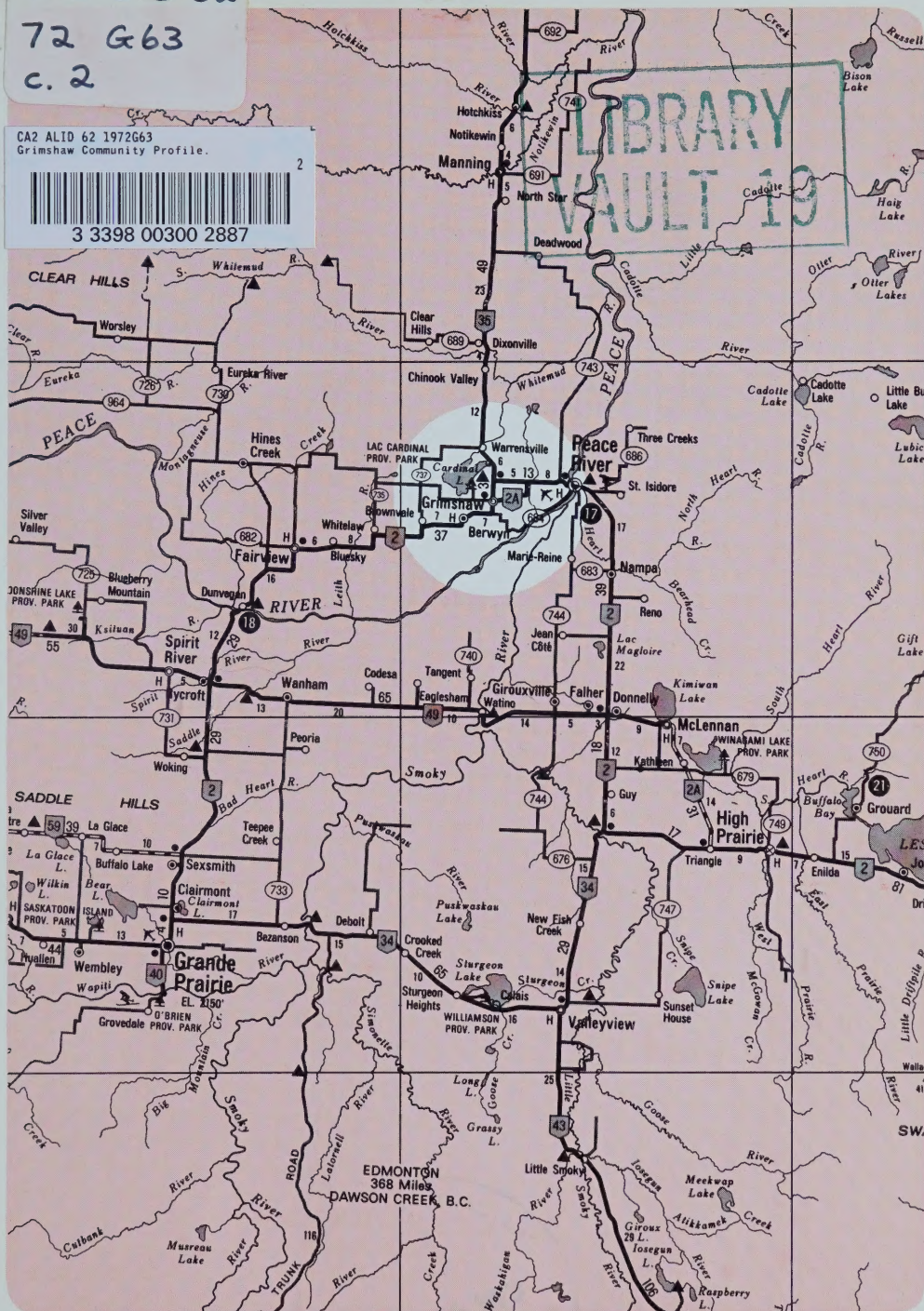
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Grimshaw Community Profile.



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GRIMSHAW COMMUNITY PROFILE

November 1972

AN INTRODUCTION

Location

Six quarters located in sections 7, 8, 17 and 18 — 83-23-W5th in census division No. 15. This location is on highway No. 2, 2A and the southern terminus of the Mackenzie Highway (35) which leads to High Level, Fort Vermilion, Rainbow Lake, Hay River and Yellowknife. It is served by the Northern Alberta Railway and is four miles from Roma Junction which is the southern terminus of the Great Slave Lake Railway, which serves the northern part of the Province and Hay River and Pine Point in the Northwest Territories.

Grimshaw's altitude is 1,986.5 feet above sea level, and on the map its location is 56/11 latitude and 117/36 longitude.

Population

Town population (1968): 1,668.

Trading area population (1966): 8,750. The trading area is regarded as extending 428 miles north, 10 miles east and south, and 55 miles west.

Weather

- Average summer temperature: 57 degrees F.
- Average winter temperature: 17 degrees F.
- Average annual temperature: 34 degrees F.
- Average annual rainfall: 14.8 inches.
- Average annual snowfall: 48.5 inches.
- Average annual total precipitation: 19.67 inches.

Geology

The uppermost bedrock strata is the Lower Smoky River formation, comprised of back shales and thin sandstone beds. The cover of glacial drift contains gravels at many places along the main highway from Grimshaw to Fairview.

Soil

Grimshaw is in a Transition soil zone which is described as follows:

Profile: Generally quite mixed ranging from nearly black to grey. The surface horizon consists of a thin layer of semi-decomposed litter (AO) which may be absent in burned over areas, underlain by a mineral horizon than can usually be divided into two parts. The upper (A1) part may be black, grey black or dark brown. The lower part (A2) is

frequently somewhat leached of organic matter and considerably greyer than the A1. The total depth of these surface horizons average about 10 to 12 inches. The B horizons are generally dark brown in color and lime is found at depths of about 30 to 40 inches.

Fertility: these soils are usually not as rich as those of the black zone. Leaching of the surface horizons has resulted in the loss of some plant foods.

Vegetation: Mainly woodland in which the tree growth is frequently denser and has more evergreens than in the black zone.

Land Use: A system of mixed farming that includes legumes in crop rotation, supplemented with applications of fertilizer when required, should be practised for best results. Honey production has become quite successful in the area, and a modern extracting plant has been established on the outskirts of the town.

History

The land around Grimshaw was surveyed for homesteads in 1910, and homesteaders began to arrive around 1911 - 12. The land on which the Town now stands was the homestead of Albert Edward Craddock, who arrived from British Columbia in 1912. The railway arrived in 1921, and the townsite was first surveyed by Alfred Driscoll in September of that same year. Subsequent surveys were made in 1927 - 28. The Town was named to honour the late M. E. Grimshaw, M.D., a doctor who had given unstinted service for many years to the early settlers throughout the Peace River District. Dr. Grimshaw was born in Kingston, Ontario. He practised medicine at Innisfail in 1912 and at Medicine Hat in 1913, then moved to the Peace River District to establish a practise in 1914. He was mayor of Peace River in 1922 and subsequently started a medical practise in Fairview in 1919, where he died in November of the same year.

The hamlet of Grimshaw was erected as a Village February 18, 1930, and made a Town on February 1st, 1953.

Historic Sites: Mackenzie Monument, two miles north; Cenotaph; Mile "O" Mackenzie Highway Fountain.

LIVEABILITY



Attractive homes in one of town's residential areas.

Grimshaw lies on a plateau a few miles north of the slope that descends 800 feet to the Peace River, and is 15 miles west of the Town of Peace River on Highway No. 2, which is hard surfaced.

The surrounding area is generally flat, dotted with clumps of poplar trees and willow bushes. The chief industry is mixed farming, although the town has become a base for companies involved in oilfield exploration and related services.

The Town is the strategic point which serves that part of the country north to Fort Vermilion, High Level, Rainbow Lake, Lower Hay River, Fort Providence and Yellowknife. It is the southern terminus of Highway No. 35, which is paved to High Level, and gravelled to Hay River and Yellowknife, and is the shipping point for a large area of rich farmland that surrounds the Town.

Transportation east, west and north is by rail, bus and truck. There are scheduled flights to points north, east and west by Pacific Western Airlines and Keir Air Transport from the Peace River Municipal Airport, seven miles to the east. This airport is also the base for charter airlines and private firms. The terminus of the Great Slave Lake Railway to Pine Point, Roma Junction, is four miles east of the town.

Facilities for summer and winter sports include a four-sheet covered curling rink, a hockey skating arena. Excellent summer resort facilities and picnic grounds are at Car-

dinal Lake, five miles northwest. Good hunting is available in season. Government camp kitchen is located one mile north.

Four churches serve the spiritual needs of the community, and a movie theatre provides entertainment.

Excellent school buildings provide for the educational needs of the area, and Grades 1 to 12 are taught in Public and separate Schools.

Utilities consist of a central water and sewage system. Three phase 60 cycle power and natural gas. The source of water is a spring two miles north of Town, flowing by gravity with a pressure of 37-46 pounds.

There are 364 dwelling units in the Town, and the population of 1,668 is made up of people from the British Isles, Eastern Canada and the United States. A five room modern home rents for around \$125.00 to \$150.00 per month.

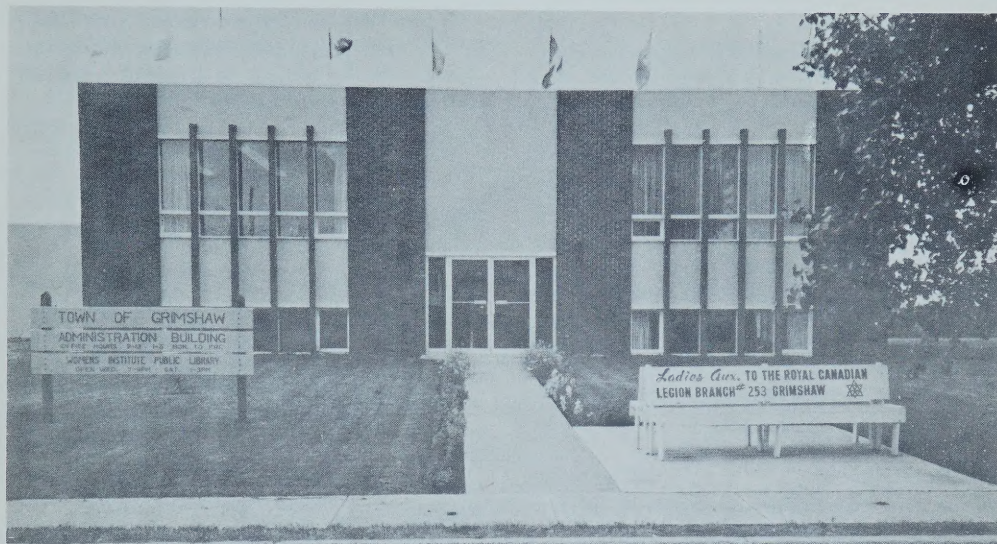
Total area of the town is 964 acres, of which streets and lanes account for 77 acres, and 19 acres are devoted to parks and playgrounds.

Miles of roads, streets and lanes:

	Paved	Gravel	Dirt	Total
Provincial Main	2.1			2.1
Roads and Streets	.5	4.9	1	6.4
Public Lanes and Alleys		3.3	.4	3.7
Total Miles				12.2

There are approximately seven miles of cement and asphalt sidewalks.

ADMINISTRATION



Administration Building houses Town offices and library.

Civic Government

The Town is governed by a mayor and six councillors, elected for three-year terms. The town secretary-treasurer carries out the policy set by the council. There is a works foreman, a recreation board and a welfare officer.

Tax Structure

	1972
Land - 65% of value	466,400
Improvements - 60% of value	\$2,025,960
Total assessment	\$2,492,360
1971 Mill Rate: Municipal 26.46; School 40.27; Hospital, Health and Home for the Aged 7.25. Total 73.98 mills.	



Bear Lake Stampede is the largest rodeo north of Edmonton.

PROTECTIVE AND UTILITY SERVICES

Law Enforcement

Royal Canadian Mounted Police patrol the Town, highway and rural areas from the detachment at Grimshaw.

Court is held on every second Tuesday.

Building Regulations - All new buildings, repairs to buildings or removal of buildings must be approved by the Council, after which a permit is issued. All new buildings must be connected to water and sewer.

Electrical installations must comply with the Provincial Government Regulations.

Gas installations are inspected by the Provincial Inspector.

Plumbing installations must comply with the town by-law.

Fire Protection

The Fire Department consists of a Fire Chief and 19 volunteer firemen.

Equipment: One 1957 3 ton GMC Truck with a King Seagrave 625 GPM Pumper; 500 gallon mounted water tank. 2,400 feet 2½" hose, 1,000 feet 1½" hose, extension ladder, roof ladder, gas mask, axes, crowbars, helmets, coats and boots.

Water Supply: Water is obtained from springs two miles north of Town and runs into a 60,000 gallon reservoir; from there it enters the water main leading to town and is pumped into a 275,000 gallon storage tank. There are 34 hydrants conveniently located throughout the town.

Water and Sewer

Water is obtained from springs two miles north of Town. Water is fed by gravity into a reservoir which has an elevation of 70 feet higher than the town and piped through six inch cast iron pipe to town, and provides a static pressure around 30 lbs. p.s.i.

Rates: Water and sewer services, minimum \$8.50 per month, for 4,000 gallons in winter, and for 6,000 gallons in summer, plus 75 cents per thousand gallons.

Water Analysis	Parts per Million
Solids	394
Ignition Loss	110
Hardness	285
Sulphate	82
Chloride	4
Alkalinity	235
Nature of Alkalinity - Bicarbonate of Lime and Magnesium.	
Nitrites	Trace
Nitrates	.08
Iron	nil
Fluoride	.28

Sewer and Water Main Mileage: Storm Sewers .4 miles; Sanitary Sewers 7.8 miles; Water Mains 10.1 miles.

Electric Power

Power is obtained under a 10-year franchise by Northland Utilities Limited from the provincial grid system.

Domestic Rates:

First 30 KWH, \$2.60 minimum;

Next 20 KWH at 4.2¢ per KWH;

Next 150 KWH at 3.2¢ per KWH;

Next 400 KWH at 2.25¢ per KWH;

All over 600 KWH at 1.7¢ per KWH.

Commercial:

Single phase 1 to 5 KW, Minimum \$3.10;

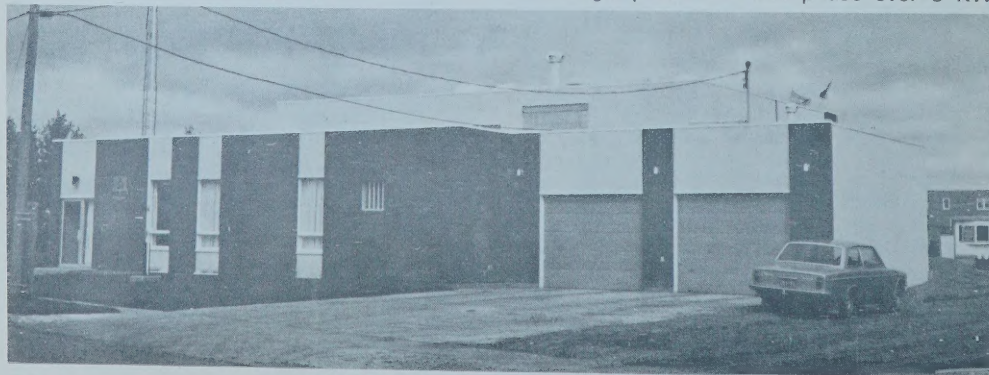
200 KWH at 6.6¢ per KWH;

800 KWH at 3.2¢ per KWH;

1000 KWH at 2.3¢ per KWH;

All over 2000 at 1.8¢ per KWH.

Single phase or three phase over 5 KW



RCMP patrolling town and area are headquartered here.

minimum \$1.20 per KW of billing demand;
40 KWH per month per KW of billing demand at 6.6¢

160 KWH per month per KW of billing demand at 3.2¢;

200 KWH per month per KW of billing demand 2.3¢;

For use in excess of 400 KWH per month per KW of billing demand 1.8¢.

Natural Gas

Gas is obtained under a franchise from Northland Utilities Limited.

Residential Rates: First 2 MCF or less used per month - \$3.00. All additional MCF used per month - 65¢ per MCF. Minimum monthly charge - \$3.00.

High Load Factor: Consumers of large amounts of gas can apply to the Company for special rates.

L. P. Gas

Heat value: 2,521 b.t.u. per cubic foot at 60 degrees F.

Available in 100 pound cylinders at \$6.00; 20 pound cylinders at \$1.50; in bulk at 18.5¢ per gallon for domestic use, and at 15.5 for farm use.

Storage capacity is 2,800 gallons.

Diesel Fuel

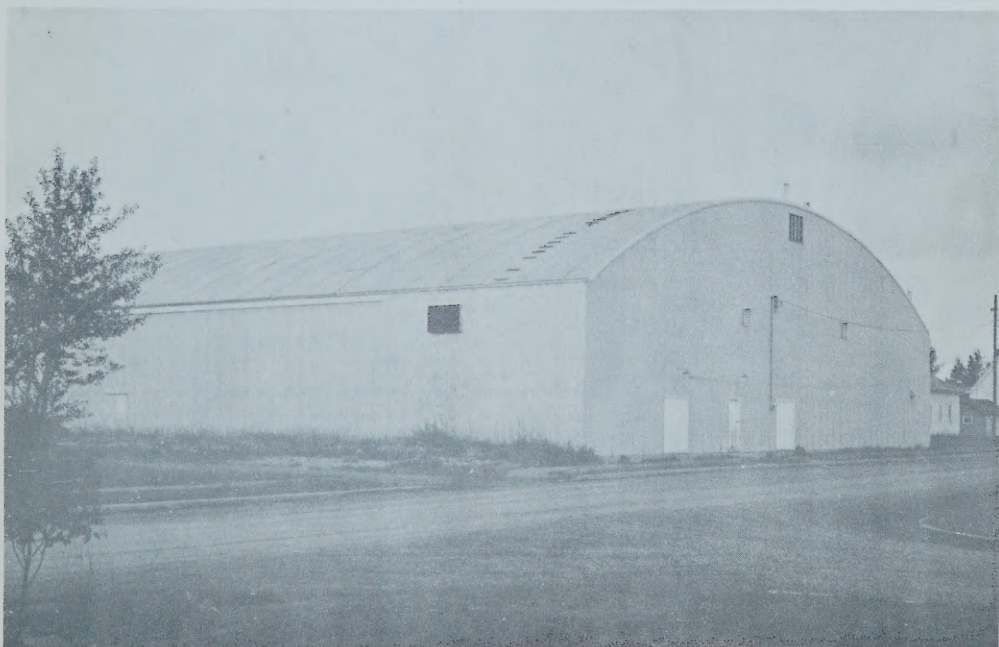
Heat value: 135,000 to 140,000 b.t.u. per gallon at 60 degrees F.

Rates: 22.8¢ per gallon for both winter and summer grades.

Storage capacity is 56,000 gallons.

Coal

Very little coal is used in town, but can be purchased from dealers at rates of \$23.00 per ton for lump coal, and \$15.40 per ton for stoker coal.



Arena for hockey and skating seats 2,500 spectators.

EDUCATION



Grades one to 12 are taught in Grimshaw schools.

Grimshaw School District No. 4523 is part of the Peace River School Division No. 10. Grades 1 to 12 are taught along with the following optional subjects: Drama, Art, Home Economics and Shop. Seven School buses supply transportation for the rural students.

The school population is made up as follows:

	Grades	Teachers	Pupils
Elementary	1-6	16	408
Junior High	7-9	10	165
High	10-12	7	74



Four churches serve the town's spiritual needs.

ACTIVITIES AND RECREATION

Churches

United, Anglican, Roman Catholic, Christian and Missionary Alliance.

Organizations, Societies, Clubs

Elks, Canadian Legion, Legion Ladies' Auxiliary, Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, Home and School Association, Women's Institute, Arena Association, Church W.A.

Cultural Activities

The Grimshaw Community Library is supported by the Women's Institute, Provincial Government grant, and membership fees. There are approximately 1,500 books, Drama is taught at school.

Youth Activities

Boys: Cubs, 4-H Club, Junior Boys Club, Crusaders.

Girls: 4-H Club, Girl Guides, Brownies, Land Rangers, Junior Auxiliary, Girls' Auxiliary, School Youth Club (boys and girls).

Sports

Baseball, hockey (senior and junior), curling, badminton, tennis, softball, men's basketball.

Facilities: skating and hockey arena (artificial ice), seating capacity 2,500; curling rink with four sheets of artificial ice; school grounds, recreation park, and community playgrounds.

Fairs

Bear Lake Sports Day (July 1).

Annual Bear Lake Stampede (two days), the largest rodeo north of Edmonton.

Theatres and Halls

	Capacity	Stage	Piano
Grimshaw Theatre	328	No	No
Elks' Hall	500	Yes	Yes
Anglican Parish Hall	100	No	Yes
Arena (upstairs)	1000	Yes	Yes
Legion Hall	700	Yes	Yes



Intense action at Bear Lake Stampede.

BUSINESSES AND SERVICES



Area crops are marketed at seven grain elevators in town.

Government Offices

Federal: Post Office.

Provincial: Alberta Government Telephones, Treasury Branch, Department of Highways shop and snow plow shed, Alberta Government Liquor Store.

Health Services

There is no Hospital in Grimshaw. The nearest hospital is located in Berwyn, six miles west on an all-weather highway.

The Peace River Health Unit makes semi-monthly visits.

Financial Facilities

Alberta Treasury Branch, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Co-operatives

Alberta Wheat Pool, United Grain Growers Peace River co-operative Livestock Market, U.F.A. Co-op Petroleum Division, U.F.A. Co-op Ltd. (farm supplies).

Hotels and Motels

	Rooms	Single Rate	Beer License
Grimshaw Hotel	32	\$4.00 & up	Yes
Mackenzie Motel	8 units	\$5.00 & up	
Dee Jay Motel	8 units	\$6.50 & up	

Tourist Camps

Grimshaw Trailer Courts.

Business Establishments

Type of Business	No. of Establishments
Auto Wreckers & Salvage	1
Bakery	1
Banks	2
Barbers	1
Beauty Parlor	2
Books & Stationery (see Drugstores)	
Building Contractors	7
Builders Supplies	6
Butchers	2
Car Rental Agency	1
Coin Laundry	2
Coin Vending Machine Operator	1
Concrete Products	1
Cold Storage Lockers	1
Draperies and Yard Goods	3
Drive-In Restaurant	1
Drive-In Theatre	1
Dry Cleaner	1
Dry Goods	3
Drug Store	1
Earth Moving Contractors	4
Electricians	2
Electric Supplies	5
Engineering Services	1
Farm Supply Wholesale	1
Floor Covering	1
Florist	1
Furniture	2
Garages and Service Stations	6
General Stores	3

Grain Elevators & Farm Supplies	7
Grocery Stores	3
Hardwares	2
Heavy Duty Equipment Repairs	1
Honey Producer & Extracting Plant	1
Hotels	1
Implement Dealers	5
Insurance Agents	5
Ladies Wear	3
Liquor Store	1
Livestock Buyers	2
Men's Wear	1
Milk Distributors	2
Motels	2
Oil Distributors Wholesale & Farm Supplies	6
Oilfield Service Companies	6
Painters & Decorators	2
Plumber	1
Propane Gas Distributors	2
Radiator Repairs	1
Radio & Television Repairs	2
Real Estate Agents	3
Restaurants	3
Sand & Gravel Supplier	2
Seed Cleaning Plant	1
Sporting Goods (see Hardware)	
Theatre	1
Tire Shops (Wholesale & Repair)	2
Transit Mix	1
Transport	4
Trailer Courts	4
Veterinarian	1
Welding & Machine Shops	2
Woodworking	3

Transportation

Bus Service:

7:30 a.m. bus leaves Grimshaw daily for Grande Prairie with connections to Edmonton, Dawson Creek, Prince George and Vancouver.

8:00 a.m. bus leaves daily for Hay River with connections to Ft. Vermilion and Tuesday Thursday and Saturday connections to Yellowknife.

3:00 p.m. bus leaves daily for Valleyview, Whitecourt & Edmonton.

10:15 p.m. bus leaves daily for High Prairie, Westlock and Edmonton.

Air Service:

Grimshaw Municipal Airport, located northwest corner of Town. Runways 06 and 24 (Power line 200 feet from Threshold 06); long - 3900 ft; wide - 75 ft; grass surface; Elevation - 1990; circuit - left hand; fuel - 80-70 and 100-130; radio - contact Peace River radio on 122.2.

Peace River Municipal Airport, eight miles northeast of town, is a D.O.T. airport with full facilities and serviced by major airlines.

Communications

Alberta Government Telephones, Post Office, Northern Alberta Railway Telegraphs.

Media

Radio Stations: CKYL, Peace River, and CFGP, Grande Prairie.

Newspapers: Fairview Post (weekly) carries two pages on Grimshaw; Peace River Record-Gazette (weekly) also has two pages on local news.



Grimshaw's main street, serving a large trading area.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Sites

Residential and industrial sites adjacent to trackage and highway, with all utilities, can be purchased at reasonable prices from the town and private owners.

Local Resources

Wheat and coarse grains, forage crops and seeds - mostly alfalfa and grass; cattle, hogs, poultry products, honey, straw; sand and gravel; fish, furs, lumber, oil and gas.

Current Industry

Grimshaw developed first as a community centre for a rich mixed farming district. It was a focal point where early settlers did shopping, and from which they shipped their surplus farm products.

As the rich land to the north was opened up for settlement after the railroad arrived in 1922, it became the nearest rail shipping point for the farmers, trappers and fishermen as far north as Yellowknife, 482 miles to the north, and 10 miles south to the Peace River.

The Town is more important than local farming activities would indicate. The water supply from local springs has attracted many residents to the Town and unlimited room for expansion has attracted commerce. Grimshaw is strategically located for a distribution point for the entire north. It is situated on Highway No. 2, at the terminus of the Mackenzie Highway, and is only four miles from the southern terminus of the Great Slave Lake Railway.

As Mile "0" on the Mackenzie Highway, Grimshaw enjoys a flourishing volume of truck transport business. One major firm operates out of Grimshaw and has depots in Calgary, Edmonton, Grimshaw, Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith and intermediate points. This firm pioneered the first overland route to Yellowknife in the winter of 1955-56, and in the winter of 1967-68 established a truck route to Uranium City, Saskatchewan, via Fort Smith and Fort Chipewyan. This was conducted on an experimental basis, and was proven successful, and economical. Future years will see a continuation of this operation, and probably further expansion.

At Grimshaw, the Province of Alberta Department of Highways Maintenance Branch, has its District Shops, serving an area from Slave Lake and Valleyview to the B.C. border, and north to the N.W.T. border. The shops are located on a 17-acre site in the Town of Grimshaw, and employ 9 to 12 men regularly.

Grimshaw is also the headquarters of a large construction company whose business of road construction and maintenance, seismic line cutting and associated work carry them into B.C., the Yukon and the Northwest Territories as well as Alberta. With 22 Caterpillar Tractors, 20 Scrapers, two Graders, two Draglines along with all the trucking and camp facilities required to maintain the operation, the employment total ranges from 40 to 120, depending on the work in progress.

Winter fishing on Great Slave Lake is quite a business; most of the catch is whitefish. One Edmonton company employs 50 men, an airplane and several snowmobiles. There are about 12 more companies operating on the Lake in addition to about 400 independent fishermen who sell their fish to the larger companies. The catch is trucked to Grimshaw, then rushed by express or plane to Eastern and American markets. Winter fishing on this lake is looked upon as "off season" work by the larger companies. One company operates a fleet of 24 fishing boats during the summer season, and employs 170 men.

The production of grain and seed crops are important in the Grimshaw area. More than two-thirds of farm cash income is obtained from these sources, livestock receipts account for about 20% of the total. Wheat is the principal cereal grown, but the area seeded to coarse grains has increased in recent years.

Current Development

A \$700,000 alfalfa dehydrating and pelleting plant is in the negotiation stage and should be operative in 1973.

A greenhouse and market garden is also in the negotiation.

Enquiries

Grimshaw welcomes enquiries. They should be directed to:

Grimshaw Chamber of Commerce,
P. O. Box 283,
Grimshaw, Alberta.

